

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 07/24/14

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, July 24, 2014, at the Administration Building. Mrs. Brody called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida, Dr. Shea, Mr. Messore and Mr. Tarro. Absent were Mr. Fuller and Mrs. Dillon.

Mrs. Kate Brody introduced School Committee members present at the meeting: Mr. Patrick Guida, Dr. Robert Shea and Dr. Paula Dominguez. Mr. Scott Fuller was absent. Mrs. Brody also introduced the Administration and Central Office Staff: Superintendent Mr. Michael Messore, Director of Administration and Finance Mr. Ronald Tarro, and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Mrs. Elizabeth Levesque. Director of Curriculum and Instruction Mrs. Paula Dillon was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Dominguez led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messore and Mr. Tarro provided an overview of the enrollment activity to date for Grades K-5. Mr. Messore noted the need to shift personnel (one FTE) from Primrose Hill School to Sowams School as current enrollment for Grade 1 at Primrose Hill School is lower than the projected enrollment. All other current grade level enrollment is close to the projected enrollment for the 2014-2015 Operating Budget.

Mr. Messore provided an update on the implementation plan for the All Day Kindergarten program. Based on current enrollment, kindergarten classrooms will have an average class size of 18 students and at this time the projection is to have three classes in every K-3 building. All Kindergarten teachers have been hired and next steps include hiring kindergarten interns. Kindergarten classrooms have been designated in each building, and supplies and new furniture have been received in the district. Scheduling is in process and there may be a potential increase in scheduling of Music, Art and Physical Education to accommodate the new kindergarten schedules that would be shared throughout the three K-3 schools.

Mr. Messore presented an update on personnel and the allocation of resources to support student achievement, summarizing the certified teaching positions that remain to be filled in the district. Mr. Messore made two recommendations to the Committee. First, to combine the new part time Math interventionist position at Barrington Middle School with the half time Math interventionist position at Hampden Meadows School (previously held by Mrs. Tolento, the new principal at Primrose Hill School,) into one full time position. The Math interventionist would have dual certification and would provide support for students and educators in both buildings with a focus on vertical alignment of the curriculum. Mr. Messore's second recommendation was create the position of Assistant Principal at Hampden Meadows School and not post the position of Head Teacher, a half time position that was vacated by Mrs. Tolento upon her appointment as Principal at Primrose Hill School. This initiative would be revenue neutral and would provide support for the building principal with instructional leadership, education coaching, professional development and shared educator evaluator roles. The need for this support had been discussed at the end of the 2013-2014 academic year. Following discussion, the Committee expressed support for both recommendations.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BARRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND**

Page 2

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 07/24/14

Mr. Messore and Mr. Tarro reported on the building projects throughout the district, providing a status update on the Office of Civil Rights voluntary compliance project at Barrington High School and the Phase I Project taking place at the Nayatt, Primrose, Sowams, and Hampden Meadows schools. All projects are on time and on or under budget. The Wireless Classroom Initiative began on July 23, 2014 at Barrington Middle School. The maintenance team continues to paint, renovate and clean classrooms. Mrs. Brody suggested a possible community open house to provide members of the community with an opportunity to see the work that has been completed with taxpayer support.

Old Business from School Committee

Provided to the Committee prior to the meeting was an example of the Board Briefs used by the Pewaukee, Wisconsin School Board as a tool to inform the community about the Board's work. Mrs. Brody led the discussion on the Committee's consideration of use of a similar document following every School Committee meeting, using the Pewaukee district tool as a best practice model since that district received the 2012 Baldrige Award in Education. Following discussion, the Committee unanimously agreed to the use of School Committee Briefs to provide meeting highlights to the community following every School Committee meeting. Mrs. Brody will write the School Committee Briefs and coordinate distribution with the Administration.

The School Committee policy revision on Free and Reduced-Price Meals and/or Free Milk was read aloud for a second reading.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adopt the revision to the policy on Free and Reduced-Price Meals and/or Free Milk. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

General Public Discussion and Information

No issues were raised at this time.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Edward Chomka, HS, Science.

Mr. Messore noted that Mr. Chomka has 30 years of teaching experience in Massachusetts and is a former Science department chair. Mr. Chomka will attend training next week in Advanced Placement (AP) Physics to prepare for his new position at Barrington High School.

The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Nichole Collins, NA, Nurse. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 07/24/14

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of John Gorham, HS, Assistant Football Coach. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Jennifer Jones, MS, Teacher Assistant Special Education. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Amy Nicodemus, HS, Class of 2018 Advisor. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Whitney Hassett Norton, HM, Reading Specialist.

Mr. Messore noted that Mrs. Norton, a certified reading specialist, comes to Barrington Public Schools from a neighboring district and has experience in differentiated instruction. Mr. Guida clarified that the Committee receives a resume for each recommended candidate for review before the meeting.

The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Samuel Schachter, HS, LifeSmarts Club Advisor. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the leave of absence for Patricia Tolento, HM, Head Teacher and Math Specialist.

Mr. Messore noted that new regulations allow newly hired building administrators to request up to three years leave of absence from their teaching position. Mrs. Brody clarified that Mrs. Tolento has been appointed the new principal at Primrose Hill School.

The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the resignation of Peter Ansel, HS, Advisory Theatre Technical. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the resignation of Donna Dimery, MS, French.

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 07/24/14

Mr. Messore thanked Mrs. Dimery for her five years of service at Barrington Middle School and for her work towards the district's continuous improvement. Mrs. Dimery, a former assessment trainer, also helped filling in for building administrators as needed in the district.

The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the resignation of Diana Thomas, PH, Teacher Assistant Special Education. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

New Business from School Committee

Mrs. Brody introduced the 2014-2015 School Committee/Superintendent Operating Protocols as established during the district's governance project. The document outlines the support of the educational welfare and well-being of all students, demonstrates the professional and collegial relations with one another, and the dedication to establishing and maintaining effective communication. The Committee read the document aloud, and following the motion to adopt the operating protocols, each signed the document along with Mr. Messore. The Committee discussed the options to publish and post the document throughout the district.

Mr. Guida moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to adopt the 2014-2015 School Committee/Superintendent Operating Protocols. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mrs. Brody introduced the two new School Committee policies. Both policies support orientation for new School Committee members and are modeled after the Fairfax County, Virginia Public Schools as adopted as part of their Strategic Governance Manual. The School Committee policy on School Committee: Role of the Chair was presented and read aloud for a first reading by the Committee. The policy will be presented for a second reading at the next Committee meeting.

The School Committee policy on School Committee: Process for Addressing Violations was presented and read aloud for a first reading by the Committee. The policy will be presented for a second reading at the next Committee meeting.

Decision Items

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Discussion Future Agenda Items

Mr. Messore reported that the next regular meeting of the School Committee on Thursday, August 14, 2014 will include discussion on the 2014-2015 academic year meeting schedule as well as a presentation

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 07/24/14

on the Lead, Educate and Promote the Profession (LEAPP) initiative, a topic postponed from the June 19 School Committee meeting that was rescheduled due to the lack of a quorum.

Mr. Guida requested a future agenda item to include discussion on the impact to Barrington High School on the Rhode Island General Assembly's recent decision to suspend the use of standardized tests as a graduation requirement.

Mrs. Brody noted that the draft 2014-2015 academic year meeting schedule will be available at the next meeting and due to a conflict in schedules, there will be back to back meetings in late October.

Announcements

On behalf of the Committee, Mrs. Brody wished Dr. Dominguez safe travels to India where she will spend several months conducting research as a 2014 Fulbright Scholar. Dr. Dominguez is expected to return in January 2015.

General Public Discussion and Information

No issues were raised at this time.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:50 p.m. and go in to Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(1) for Superintendent Evaluation. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion. Mr. Fuller was absent.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:47 p.m. and to seal the minutes and report that one vote was taken in Executive Session. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

The School Committee reconvened in open session at 9:50pm to report that one vote was taken in Executive Session. Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to increase the salary of the Superintendent to \$154,000 per annum, retroactive to July 1, 2014. The motion passed unanimously with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:51 p.m. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.